

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 to 23 (cancelled)

Claim 24 (currently amended) A method of forming in a mammal a connective tissue capsule for maintaining transplanted allogenic or xenogenic cells comprising introducing a polyacrylamide gel into a tissue of the mammal so as to cause the connective tissue capsule to form around the polyacrylamide gel, wherein the mammal suffers from a pathology and the method comprises introducing into and maintaining in said connective tissue capsule transplanted allogenic or xenogenic cells that aid in treating the pathology.

Claim 25 (previously presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein the mammal is a human.

Claim 26 (cancelled)

Claim 27 (previously presented) A method according to claim 26, wherein the pathology is diabetes mellitus.

Claim 28 (previously presented) A method according to claim 26, wherein pancreatic β -cells are introduced into and maintained in said connective tissue capsule.

Claim 29 (previously presented) A method according to claim 28, wherein the pancreatic β -cells are cells from rabbits or pigs.

Claim 30 (previously presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein the connective tissue capsule is formed by subcutaneous injection of the polyacrylamide gel into the mammal.

Claim 31 (previously presented) A method of introducing allogenic or xenogenic cells into of a mammal, comprising introducing a polyacrylamide gel into a mammal, thereby inducing formation of a connective tissue capsule around said gel, and thereafter, injecting allogenic or xenogenic cells of a mammal into said connective tissue capsule.

Claim 32 (previously presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein the gel is introduced by subcutaneous injection.

Claim 33 (cancelled)

Claim 34 (previously presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein said allogenic or xenogenic cells are tumor cells.

Claim 35 (previously presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein said allogenic or xenogenic cells are Leydig's cells.

Claim 36 (previously presented) A method of treating a pathology in a mammal, comprising introducing a polyacrylamide gel into a mammal, thereby inducing formation of a connective tissue capsule around said gel; and thereafter transplanting allogenic or xenogenic cells of a mammal into said connective tissue capsule, said cells being

maintained in said capsule and producing a biologically active substance which is released from said capsule for treatment of the pathology.

Claim 37 (previously presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein said pathology is diabetes melitus, said transplanted cells are pancreatic β -cells, and said biologically active substance is insulin.

Claim 38 (previously presented) A method according to claim 37, wherein said β -cells are from rabbits or pigs.

Claims 39, 40 and 41 (cancelled)

Claim 42 (currently amended) ~~A method according to claim 24,~~ A method of forming in a mammal a connective tissue capsule for maintaining transplanted allogenic or xenogenic cells comprising introducing a polyacrylamide gel into a tissue of the mammal so as to cause the connective tissue capsule to form around the polyacrylamide gel, further comprising transplanting allogenic or xenogenic cells into the connective tissue capsule so as to maintain the cells in the capsule for a period of time.

Claim 43 (previously presented) A method according to claim 42, wherein said period of time exceeds a period that said transplanted cells would persist in the mammal without prior formation of said connective tissue capsule.

Claim 44 (previously presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein said

transplanted cells are injected into said capsule such that they persist in the mammal for a period that exceeds a period that said transplanted cells would persist without prior formation of the connective tissue capsule.

Claim 45 (previously presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein said transplanted cells persist in the mammal for a period of time that exceeds a period that said transplanted cells would persist without prior formation of the connective tissue capsule.